

1847 5  
REPORT

TO THE

CITIZENS OF MONTREAL,

OF THE

*Committee appointed at the Public Meeting of the 13th instant, under the Resolutions then adopted, calling for the Establishment of an*

IMMIGRANT STATION

*Below the City of Montreal.*

THE undersigned, appointed a Committee to carry into effect certain resolutions relative to the location of a permanent Immigrant Station below the city of Montreal, which were adopted at a public meeting of the citizens of Montreal, held on Tuesday, the 13th instant, at the Busecours Market Hall, conceive it their duty to explain to their fellow citizens the steps which they have adopted in pursuance of the charge imposed on them.

It will be fresh in the memory of every one, that the meeting above referred to was convened by his Worship the Mayor, in order that a decided expression of opinion might be obtained from the citizens of Montreal, as to the expediency of the erection of additional Immigrant Sheds, above the city, in direct opposition to the wishes of the citizens, as expressed at a previous public meeting, held on Saturday, the 10th instant.

At the second public meeting, which was attended by about three thousand persons, including individuals of the highest respectability, of all origins, and of every political opinion—as well as at the former meeting—there was a perfect unanimity of agreement, that the location of the Immigrant Sheds, close to and above the city was fraught with danger to the inhabitants, and that it therefore became necessary, to urge in the strongest manner on the proper authorities, the necessity of permanently establishing an Immigrant Station, at some site below and at a safe distance from the city, where the danger might be effectually guarded against. The grounds on which this conclusion was arrived at, are so fully stated in the resolutions adopted, which have been published in all the newspapers of the city, that it is unnecessary in this document to recapitulate them.

The Committee, on the day following the public meeting, (the 14th instant) solicited and obtained from His Excellency the Governor General, an audience, at which they handed to him a Memorial, founded on the resolutions adopted at the public meeting, which His Excellency graciously promised to take into his serious consideration. His Excellency expressed his deep sympathy with the citizens of Montreal, and his anxious desire to adopt every remedial measure in his power, not only to ward off the danger to which they were subjected, but to allay the apprehensions under which they laboured. He afterwards granted a private audience to some of the members of the Committee, when they were enabled clearly and distinctly to explain their views and those of the citizens of Montreal, on this important subject. His Excellency also promised an early reply to the Memorial.

As great weight was understood to be attached by the Government to the recommendation of the five Medical members of the Joint Immigrant Commission, which had been given in favour of the construction of additional sheds above the city, and to their assurance that there was no ground for the apprehensions of the citizens, the Committee, with a view to ascertain how far these apprehensions were founded in fact, consulted such members of the faculty, not being members of the Joint Emigrant Commission, as it was in their power to see during the short time they were able to devote to this object. The gentlemen so applied to, almost without exception, expressed their entire concurrence of opinion with the Committee; and to the number of nineteen, signed certificates strongly recommending the change prayed for by the Memorial of the citizens.

The Joint Immigrant Commission having never asserted that the removal of the Immigrant Station below Montreal would be "so gross and selfish in the extreme," inasmuch as it would deprive the unfortunate Immigrants—whose condition none more deeply deplore than the Committee—of the valuable services of those Ministers of their respective churches, and of those religious ladies, who have so heroically endangered, and too many of whom have sacrificed, their lives in the noble office of administering both spiritual and temporal aid to the sufferers; the Committee applied to the proper sources, and at once received from the Clergy of every denomination an assurance of what indeed they never doubted,—that those faithful and devoted followers of "Him who went about doing good," so far from shrinking from the performance of their sacred duty in consequence of any such change of location as the citizens prayed for, would continue to perform them with the same alacrity which they have hitherto so signally manifested, and would, in fact, prefer, for this purpose, the proposed site below the city to the sites insisted upon by the Commissioners above it.

On the evening of the 16th instant, the Committee received, through His Worship the Mayor, the letter from the Secretary of the Province, which, by order of the Committee, has been published in the newspapers, conveying the information that a Member of the Government had been despatched to Grosse Isle for the purpose of causing the adoption of more stringent measures of precaution at that station, but communicating no light as to the intentions of the Government on the other most important matters alluded to in the Memorial. Those matters, as that letter stated, were under the consideration of the Council; and the result of their deliberations, it promised, should be communicated at the earliest possible moment.

The Committee, deeming the prayer of the Memorial of a pressing character, and that every moment lost added to the public danger, and aware, moreover, that whilst the Government remained in a state of apparent inaction, the sheds, of which the citizens so loudly and energetically complained, were in process of erection under the orders of the Joint Immigrant Commission,—determined, upon the receipt of this letter, to take immediate steps to have the whole matter brought before the Legislature of the Province, now in Session. They, accordingly, on the same evening, waited on the Hon. G. Moffatt, one of the Representatives of the city, who had previously stated his entire agreement with the views of the citizens, and who consented to bring forward in the House of Assembly, a motion for an Address to His Ex-

cency for the removal of the Immigrant Station to some place below Montreal. Mr. Moffatt, in strong terms, urged, in the presence of several of the members of the Committee, upon the Hon. Messrs. Cayley and Sherwood, individually, the prayer of the Memorial, and expressed his entire disapprobation of the localities which had been selected for the new sheds. At the desire, however, of the Honorable Mr. Sherwood, he engaged to defer his motion till the return of the Honorable Mr. Cameron from Grosse Isle; immediately after which time the Committee were also promised by Mr. Sherwood that they should receive a definitive answer to their prayer. The Committee, in the course of their interviews, exhibited to Mr. Moffatt and Mr. Sherwood the certificates of the medical practitioners and of the clergy, already adverted to, and which have since appeared in the public prints.

On the 17th instant, the Grand Jury of the Court of Quarter Sessions made their Presentment, wherein they set forth their entire acquiescence in the views of the citizens of Montreal; and the Court, on receiving it, expressed publicly their assent to its representations, and engaged to recommend it strongly to the favourable notice of the Executive.

On the 19th instant, the Common Council, at a special meeting, adopted, with two dissentient voices only, a petition to the three branches of the Legislature, embodying the suggestions contained in the resolutions of the Public Meeting of the 13th.

On the same evening, Mr. Moffatt made his promised motion for an address to His Excellency for the removal of the Immigrant Sheds to some place below the city; but after certain explanations from the Provincial Ministry, expressed his desire to withdraw it. This, however, the House of Assembly would not permit; and on a division ensuing, that Honourable House, by a majority of 25 to 18, adopted the Address.

To the Memorial which the Committee had the honour to present to His Excellency, and to their repeated verbal communications with various Members of the Assembly, no definitive reply has been vouchsafed. This, perhaps, is not to be wondered at, since the Address of the Representatives of the people has remained till this day unanswered, and is this day answered, contrary to all precedent, as the Committee understand, in the negative. Under these circumstances, the one duty remaining for the Committee has become that of reporting to their fellow-citizens the measures they have taken, in the hope that they may at least be absolved from all charge of having neglected the important interests confided to them. They deeply deplore the failure of their efforts to arouse the

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Government to a proper sense of what they consider to have been its duty in this matter; and they must throw on that Government, however reluctantly, the entire responsibility of having jeopardized the health and lives of the inhabitants of this populous city, to sustain certain pre-conceived views of a few gentlemen, who seem to have made it a point of honor to stand out against, and if possible defeat, those of the community, at whatever hazard or sacrifice.

With this simple statement of facts, the Committee might perhaps terminate their labours; but a sense of what is due to themselves, and to the numerous and highly respectable body whom they on this occasion represent, compels them to place before the public eye a brief statement of the actual condition of the public health within the city, and of the utter inefficiency of the measures which the public authorities have adopted, or are understood to be about to adopt, on the occasion.

Official Returns show the mortality in the city, for the last six weeks to have been as follows:—

	Residents.	Immig. in town.	Immig. in sheds.	Total.
Week ending				
19th June..	46.....	31.....	120.....	197
26th " ..	47.....	45.....	173.....	265
3rd July....	53.....	48.....	225.....	326
10th " ....	133.....	35.....	250.....	418
17th " ....	163.....	76.....	164.....	403
24th " ....	155.....	80.....	202.....	437
Totals...	597	315	1134	2046

For the corresponding weeks of last year, they show the following result:—

	Residents.	Immig.	Total.
Week ending 20th June..	53.....	1.....	54
" 27th " ..	69.....	0.....	69
" 4th July..	51.....	3.....	54
" 11th " ..	41.....	3.....	44
" 18th " ..	44.....	0.....	44
" 25th " ..	60.....	0.....	60
Totals.....	318	7	325

Upon these figures, independently of the almost steady increase of the total numbers of this year, and the appalling contrast which they present to the total numbers of last year, the Committee must make two remarks.

In the first place, they show no such encouraging falling off in the mortality among the Immigrants, as the published reports of deaths at the Sheds have led many to suppose has lately taken place. *At the Sheds*, indeed, for the last night, they show some, though by no means great, reduction. *But in Town*—and it is in *Town* where such mortality is most dangerous to the citizens—there has been a corresponding and almost equal

increase. The totals for the six weeks range, 151, 218, 273, 285, 240, 282; a result in which (more especially coupled as it is with the fact of this increased and increasing rate of Immigrant mortality in town) the Committee find no matter of congratulation.

Another and even more alarming consideration is the contrast exhibited in respect of the mortality among the Resident Population of the City. Till the last three weeks, it was rather below that of last year; but for these last three weeks it has augmented *three-fold*. With the intercourse between the resident and immigrant populations kept up, as it is, by the refusal to remove the Immigrant Station, and with a consequently increasing amount of Immigrant sickness and death within the city, how soon is it presumable that it will diminish?

The Committee have felt it their duty to examine the Returns carefully, to ascertain the number of deaths *by fever*, among the resident population of the City during the above six weeks; and they find them to stand thus:—

Week ending 19th June, 1847.....	3
" 26th " .....	4
" 3rd July, 1847.....	19
" 10th " .....	55
" 17th " .....	58
" 24th " .....	72
	—185
	204

Week ending 20th June, 1846.....	9
" 27th " .....	9
" 4th July, 1846.....	15
" 11th " .....	5
" 18th " .....	5
" 25th " .....	5
	—15
	48

So that, while for the first three weeks the contrast is again strikingly favorable to the present year, as regards the prevalence of fever, the last three weeks show it (as compared with the corresponding three weeks of last year) to have actually increased *twelve-fold*, and to be still, to all seeming, on the increase.

That the Committee draw no unfair inference in thus comparing the last six weeks with the corresponding period of last year, is easily shown.

For the months of January, February, March and April, the contrast of the two years is the following:—



	1847.		1846.	
	Total.	Of Fever.	Total.	Of Fever.
January.....	121	18	271	45
February.....	104	9	203	49
March.....	142	16	180	33
April.....	109	9	154	31
Totals.....	476	52	808	158

From the 1st of May to the commencement of the six weeks in question, a perfectly exact comparative statement cannot be made; because the number of interments at the Sheds this year (probably small) during this period is not given in the Returns; but with this defect, the comparison stands thus:—

	1847.		1846.	
	Total.	Of Fever.	Total.	Of Fever.
May and to 12th or 13th of June,—				
Residents 198.....	14	256	49	
Immigrants 10 (or more ?).....	1			

It is thus apparent, that for the whole of this year, till the crowding in of the Immigrants upon the city, the mortality of the Resident Population was greatly below that of last year; and that fever, in particular, was decidedly the reverse of prevalent. The deaths from fever in five months and a half had not been one-third as many as during the same five months and a half of the year before. What proportion they bear now, the current returns establish but too sadly. Of the cause of the change, fraught as it is with disaster to the City, there can be but one opinion.

Assuming the Resident Population of the City to be, in round numbers, 50,000,—and it must be tolerably apparent that it does not at the present moment reach that figure, from the unusual numbers who have left town,—the mortality above exhibited (leaving, it will be remembered, wholly out of view that of the Immigrant portion of the community) has been for the last six weeks at the rate of about *ten and one-third per cent. per annum*, or more than one in ten of the whole population; for the last three weeks, it has been about *fifteen and a half*, and for the last fortnight nearly *sixteen and a half per cent.*, or nearly one in six of the population.

To show the frightful significance of these figures, it is enough to say that for the corresponding six weeks of last year, the rate (then a very high rate) was but about *five and a half per cent. per annum*, or not quite one in eighteen; that for the year 1846, it was scarcely over *four per cent.*, or one in twenty-five; that for the five months and more previous to the last six weeks it was only about

*three per cent.*, that is to say, one in thirty-three; that in the unhealthiest parts of London, on an average of many years, it is less than one in twenty-five; that in the whole of London it is not one in thirty-five; that in Glasgow it is little more than one in thirty-nine, in Berlin hardly more than one in thirty-seven, and in some European Cities of considerable size, Geneva for example, less than one in forty-six.

Much stress has been laid by parties opposed to the views of the citizens of Montreal, upon a Report lately made by certain medical gentlemen of the New York Academy of Medicine, which has been said to demonstrate, satisfactorily, the groundlessness of all alarm as to the spread of the fever introduced by the Immigrants. Whatever may be the merits of this Report for the locality for which it was written,—and it was evidently written to allay a strong feeling on this subject, existing at the time among the citizens of New York,—the Committee cannot regard it as in any way applicable to the circumstances of this city. No precise statement is made in it of the extent of the mortality among the Immigrants arriving at New York; but it is sufficiently apparent that it has been materially less than in Canada. And, as regards the mortality and spread of fever among the resident population, there is clearly, if the statements of the New York Report are not most untrue, no semblance of analogy between the two cases. It is emphatically stated that in New York *no person* living near any of the Hospitals has been attacked; that *none* have suffered but those constantly in attendance on the sick; that the fever is *confined almost entirely* to the Hospitals; and that the cases occurring out of Hospital are so few as to afford *no ground whatever for apprehension*. No one pretends to say that such is the case here. On the contrary, persons have been found bold enough to argue, that the measure of precaution demanded by the citizens has become useless, because, as is asserted on the alleged authority of certain of the Medical Immigrant Commissioners, there is no street in the city that has not its five cases of fever already.

Those, however, who quote this Report with such approval, might profit from one sentence of it which informs the citizens of New York, that slight as is the danger with which it states them to be threatened, "ample provision has now been made by the Commissioners of Emigration, to provide for the accommodation of sick emigrants beyond the city precincts." The city precincts of New York extend some miles beyond the limits covered by its population. The Commissioners of that city, small as the evil is there in comparison, have not dared venture there upon the experiment of death, which,

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in defiance of all remonstrance, the Com-  
missioners for this city (its Mayor among the  
number) have exerted all their energies to  
induce the Government to hazard here.

The Committee are well aware that their  
interference in this matter has not been fav-  
ourably regarded by the authorities upon  
whom it has been directed; and had that in-  
terference been merely the spontaneous act  
of the individuals composing the Committee,  
they would not be surprised at, however they  
might regret, the levity with which their re-  
presentations have been treated. But, claiming  
to represent, as they undoubtedly do, the  
public opinion of the city, expressed unani-  
mously at two large and influential meetings;  
fortified as their statements are, by the ap-  
proval of a far larger number of the medical  
gentlemen whose opinions carry weight with  
the community, than are opposed to them;  
backed as their prayer is, by the Clergy of  
every denomination of Christians, by the re-  
corded declarations of the Grand Jury and  
Court of Quarter Sessions for the District,  
by the almost unanimous vote of the Com-  
mon Council of the city, and by that of a  
majority of the representatives of the people;  
and fearfully corroborated as their apprehen-  
sions have been, by the daily record of mor-  
tality which the official reports for the Immi-  
grant Sheds exhibit, and by the weekly re-  
turns from the Police office, of interments  
within the city; they cannot but conceive  
that representations so urged were entitled to  
the greatest and most favourable considera-  
tion at the hands of the Executive, and that  
the apprehensions upon which they proceed-  
ed,—even if they had been as groundless in  
fact as they manifestly are but too well  
founded,—should have been met by the  
adoption of the one measure called for to al-  
lay them.

The Committee are most reluctant to cast any  
censure on the constituted authorities; they  
solemnly disclaim all party bias on this occa-  
sion; they acknowledge the difficulty of allay-  
ing the fearful evil with which the immigrant  
and resident populations are visited; and they  
are fully alive to the duty of aiding the Gov-  
ernment in all measures calculated to answer  
that purpose. But the same sense of duty to  
themselves, their families and the country,  
which would prompt them to support the mea-  
sures of the Government, when right, impels  
them to point out the serious and almost irre-  
parable evils to be apprehended from the  
course which it has, in this instance, taken.  
It has blindly followed the advice, and adopt-  
ed the theories of the Joint Immigrant Com-  
mission. But in so doing, it is practising a  
fearful experiment on the public health and  
welfare.

It is doubtless proper for the Government,

in ordinary cases, to repose confidence in those  
to whom it may have assigned a public duty;  
but there are exceptions to this rule. The  
present instance forms such an exception.  
Admitting, as this Committee unhesitatingly  
does, the high respectability of the medical  
branch of the Joint Immigrant Commission, it  
still cannot be contended that they comprise  
all the medical talent of the city; and when  
other members of the profession, not inferior  
to them in standing, and far beyond them in  
number, in terms disclaim the medical  
opinion on which the course recommended by  
the Commission is based, surely the Govern-  
ment is bound, by its duty to those of whose  
lives and property it is the guardian, to ex-  
amine fully into the validity of the reasons  
assigned on both sides of so a momentous a  
question.

The Committee are not disposed to enter  
at any length into the subtle questions raised  
by the medical members of the Joint Immi-  
grant Commission, or to pronounce, as they  
have done *ex cathedra*, as to the distance  
through which contagion may be conveyed so  
as to carry disease to a healthy subject. The  
dicta they have propounded have been so  
clearly and ably controverted as to make  
further comment upon them unnecessary.  
The citizens of Montreal have, besides, an  
evidence of their senses in this matter, which  
sets at naught all sophistry. The Medical  
Commissioners may deny as stoutly as they  
please the possibility of contagion being com-  
municated from the Immigrant Sheds to the  
city. It signifies little whether their denial  
of the contagion passing through the atmos-  
phere be founded in truth or not. The fact is  
indisputable, that it has been communicated,  
and still is daily communicated from the Im-  
migrant to the resident population; that our  
citizens are daily falling victims to its ra-  
vages; and that, however communicated,  
it is utterly impossible to establish a *cor-  
don sanitaire* sufficiently rigid to prevent its  
transmission.

If the composition of the medical part of  
the Joint Immigrant Commission be not such  
as to entitle its theories to implicit confi-  
dence from the Government, the Committee  
need hardly ask on what grounds the non-  
medical part can claim such confidence. Of  
the five gentlemen who compose that branch  
of the Commission, one is understood not to  
have acted; another was not in a state of  
health to act, until some time after the Com-  
mission had decided upon the course to which  
it has since clung with such pertinacity;  
third, not many hours before he was named a  
member of the Commission, was so zealous  
an advocate of the measure which he now  
joins in opposing, as to have been himself the  
drafter of a strong Memorial to the Executive

in its favour; and a fourth is a gentleman named upon the Commission originally, as the first Magistrate of the city, and that he might there watch over its interests and represent its views, who has since twice presided at public meetings of the citizens where those views have been emphatically expressed, whose signature, as Mayor of the city, has certified to His Excellency and the Legislature that the citizens in public meeting assembled and the Common Council of the city pointedly condemn the course which he has urged as a Commissioner, and who has yet persisted in making every possible effort to cause the wishes of the city (which by every rule of usage and right ought to have been his own also) to be treated with contempt.

The Committee disclaim all idea of creating any unnecessary alarm in the city. The statistics of public health above recited, must suffice to relieve them from all such imputation. Pending their efforts to urge the views of the citizens upon the authorities, they have most sedulously abstained from all agitation of the public mind: and they now submit their present statement only to acquaint themselves of a painful duty, by a last effort to make the true state of the case fairly and fully known. The measure which they have hitherto urged, they honestly believe to be imperatively called for, in order to stay the progress of the impending evil. It may be almost too late. But, propagated as the disease is and must be by all communication kept up between the sick Immigrants, and the healthy resident population, it must be obvious that no measures can be adequate to the emergency, which do not to the utmost possible extent cut off that communication, and effectually isolate the masses of sick Immigrants who crowd the country, (wherever they are found—and one of those places *must always be* in the neighbourhood of this city) from the population around them.

What are the reasons assigned or assignable against the provision of such a station for Immigrants below Montreal as alone can secure this necessary isolation?

First, it is said, the expense. Why a station below the city and away from it, should cost more than one above and close to it, the Committee cannot perceive. But, for argument's sake, admitting the expense to be far greater than the largest estimate which has been made of it, they still cannot allow it to be a sufficient consideration to be placed in the balance against the lives of the citizens; nor can they believe that the Government, whatever stress they may have laid on this topic, can have seriously intended to set off the one against the other.

Secondly, it has been argued,—the diffi-

culty of procuring for the sick at such isolated position, medical assistance, nurses and other appliances necessary in their unfortunate condition. For what reason it should be any harder to meet these wants on an Island a little way below the City, than on the banks of the Canal close above it, the Committee cannot imagine. No such difficulty is ever complained of, as a reason against the establishment of the Quarantine at a far greater distance below Quebec. And surely, the *surveillance* over an establishment so situated, would be far more advantageously confided to a medical staff to be appointed for the express purpose, and held responsible for the performance of their duties, than to a number of medical men actively engaged in practice within the City, and whose visits to the Sheds can only be made at such intervals as they can snatch from their more important and more profitable avocations. As to the nurses and other attendants, there can be no doubt whatever, that their efficiency would be greatly increased by placing them in a position where they would find it difficult or impossible to procure those stimulants which in the present Immigrant Sheds it is found impossible to keep from them.

And thirdly, it has been said that there would be difficulty in procuring for the Immigrants religious aid and consolation. To this objection, the Clergy have made the best and only answer, by distinctly contradicting it.

In a word, every one of these objections attaches as strongly, nay, more so, to the Quarantine below Quebec. Yet no one gives them such an application. That Quarantine, inefficiently as it has been maintained this year from the necessity of the case, has preserved Quebec from the evils now threatening such injury to Montreal. The Government has wisely done all it could to prevent the landing of the Immigrants at Quebec; but its Agents have unwisely and obstinately persisted in landing them all close to Montreal, in converting a part of one of its Suburbs into a second Grosse Isle, and in covering the city through its whole length and breadth with the fever, against which it should have been their duty, most carefully, to guard it.—What is rightly done for Quebec, requires, for precisely the same reasons, to be also done for Montreal. And whatever may be the obstinacy of those who for the present have gained the poor triumph of defeating the reasonable demands in this behalf of the citizens of Montreal,—and whatever for the present may be the results of that triumph,—the Committee cannot entertain a doubt but that, after (if not before) a full experience of them, the views which the citizens of Montreal have expressed so strongly on this occasion, will be universally acknowledged to have been right,



and will receive the tardy justice of being at last acted up to.

JOHN FISHER, Chairman.  
JAMES FERRIER.  
JOHN YOUNG.  
PIERRE BEAUBIEN, M. D.  
L. T. DRUMMOND, M. P. P.  
ARCHD. HALL, M. D.  
A. LAFRAMBOISE.  
A. GUGY.  
J. BETHUNE, D. D.  
WM. WORKMAN.  
CHRIST R. DUNKIN.  
J. G. BIBAUD, M. D.  
WM. BRISTOW.  
R. U. INNES.  
JOHN SINCLAIR.  
JOHN OSTELL.  
JEAN LOUIS BEAUDRY.  
J. EMERY CODERRE.  
BENJ. HOLMES.  
H. MULHOLLAND.  
JOSEPH FRASER.  
F. GLACKMEYER.  
J. BOULANGET.

Montreal, 26th July, 1847.

### APPENDIX.

(From the Montreal Herald of the 9th July.)

EMIGRATION.—On Tuesday last, the 6th inst., the following gentlemen visited the Island of Boucherville, with the object of judging of its capabilities as a sort of quarantine depot for the sick and indigent emigrants daily arriving at our port. The Hon A. Ferrie, President Emigrant Committee; the Hon James Ferrier, Hon. Col. Bruce, as a guest and a visitor; George Molson, John Molson, J. R. Orr, Wm. Workman, John Redpath, M. Valois, J. Court, W. D. Gibb, Benjamin Brewster, Charles Lindsay, J. Dougall, Benj. Lyman, C. H. Castle, G. H. Frothingham, Esqrs.; Drs. Beaubien and Hall; Col. Guky.

On their return to the city, on board the steamer, the Hon J. Ferrier was called to the chair, and a very interesting discussion took place on the subject of the mission to Boucherville Island, when, as a general expression of their views, the annexed resolution was proposed and *unanimously* adopted:—

Resolved,—That in view of the appalling mortality among the emigrants, and the

spread of the disease into the city, this meeting, composed chiefly of individuals connected with the Montreal Board of Health and Emigrant Committee, after a personal inspection of Boucherville Island, recommend that the same be selected as a site for Emigrant Sheds, Hospitals, &c. &c., for the Port of Montreal, if a better cannot be found; and appoint Mr. Wm. Workman, Dr. Hall and Mr. John Dougall, a Committee to draw up an Address to the proper authorities, setting forth the reasons for this recommendation.

*Resolutions adopted at the Public Meeting held on Saturday, the 10th instant, in the Bonsecours Market Hall; His Worship the Mayor in the Chair; W. Bristow, Esq., Secretary.*

1.—Moved by Benjamin Holmes, Esq., seconded by the Rev. Mr. Wilkes, and carried unanimously:

That in the opinion of this meeting, the health of the inhabitants of this populous city is most seriously endangered by the vast influx of immigrants recently arrived in a state of destitution, and suffering from malignant fevers; that from the continued influx of those immigrants, the danger to the city is hourly increasing, and that it becomes of vital importance that measures of a more efficient character than those hitherto adopted, should be immediately adopted to ward off the evil.

2.—Moved by the Hon. James Ferrier, seconded by Mr. Innes, and carried unanimously:

That the proximity to the city of the Sheds occupied by the immigrants on their arrival, renders them altogether unfit for the purposes intended, and that, therefore, the meeting deprecates, in the strongest terms, the proposed plan of erecting additional sheds in that locality.

3.—Moved by John Fisher, Esq., seconded by Benjn. Workman, Esq., and carried unanimously:

That the low and unwholesome situation, together with the crowded state, of the above named Immigrant Sheds, has tended greatly to counteract the measures adopted for the recovery of the patients there; and

this meeting, therefore, urges in the strongest manner the necessity of removing them without delay to a more salubrious situation, believing that while such an amount of contagion exists, disease must continue and spread, and that no amelioration can take place.

4.—Moved by William Workman, Esq., seconded by Dr. Coderre, and carried unanimously:

That the inhabitants of this city have learned with alarm the contemplated arrangements for additional sheds at Windmill Point, a measure, in the opinion of this meeting, calculated to increase rather than diminish the danger to which the city is exposed, and therefore, recommend that one of the Boucherville Islands be immediately selected, and suitable accommodation there provided for the instant removal of the immigrants—a situation, in the opinion of this meeting, sufficiently remote from the city, where pure air and wholesome water are inexhaustibly supplied, and within the reach of the immigrants, and where adequate space exists for the separating of the healthy from the diseased.

5.—Moved by John Young, Esq., seconded by E. E. Colburn, Esq., and passed unanimously:

That Messrs. Ferrier, Workman, Holmes, Rodier, Dr. Beaubien, Ostell, and J. Fisher, be a Committee to deliver the Resolutions just adopted, and to confer with the Mayor, as Chairman of the Commission appointed by the Executive, upon the best means of giving them effect.

6.—Moved by J. Ostell, Esq., seconded by P. Mulholland, Esq., and carried unanimously:

That the foregoing Resolutions be published in all the newspapers of this city, and that a copy be transmitted to His Excellency the Governor General, through the Civil Secretary.

*Reply of the Chairman of the Joint Immigrant Commission to the Committee named to carry out the foregoing Resolutions, and consequent Requisition for the Public Meeting of the 13th instant:—*

In accordance with the subjoined Requisition, I, the undersigned Mayor of Mont-

real, do hereby convene a Meeting of the Citizens of Montreal, for the purposes therein set forth, to be held at the Bonsecours Market, at Seven, P. M., To-Morrow, the 13th instant.

JOHN E. MILLS,  
Mayor.

Montreal, 12th July, 1847.

The undersigned, the Committee appointed by the Public Meeting held on Saturday evening last, to remonstrate against the proposed erection of a permanent Immigrant Station above the city, in the vicinity of the present Immigrant Sheds, and to endeavour to secure the selection, by Government, of an Island below the city for this purpose; finding that new Sheds are in process of construction on the site objected to, and having received from the Chairman of the Immigrant Commissioners the subjoined communication, showing the intention of making permanent establishments, as well for the sick as for the healthy Immigrants, above the city, to the exclusion of the site proposed below the city, and considering that it is important there should be a further expression of public opinion on this subject, as well as on that of the other precautions requiring to be taken, with a view to the general health of the city, request His Worship the Mayor of Montreal to convene a Public Meeting of the citizens of Montreal, to be held in the Bonsecours Market Hall, to-morrow evening, the 13th instant, at seven o'clock,

J. FERRIER, Chairman.  
BENJ. HOLMES.  
JOHN FISHER.  
PRE. BEAUBIEN, M. D.  
WILLIAM WORKMAN.  
JOHN OSTELL.  
C. E. RODIER.

Montreal, July 12, 1847.

To the Hon. James Ferrier, Dr. Beaubien and others, appointed a Committee to communicate the resolutions passed at a public meeting of the citizens of Montreal, held in the Bonsecours Market, on the 10th instant:—

Gentlemen,—The Immigrant Commissions of both Boards, appointed by Govern-



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ment, have received through you the reso-  
lutions passed at a public meeting of the  
citizens of Montreal, recommending the  
selection of Boucherville Island as a site  
for the Immigrant Sheds and Hospitals,  
and have the honor to reply—

That they have most attentively con-  
sidered the various plans proposed for the  
preservation of the public health, and more  
especially the suggestion concerning Bou-  
cherville Island, and they have arrived,  
unanimously, at the conviction that the  
arrangements now in progress are the best,  
all things considered, for the citizens as  
well as for the Immigrants. They, there-  
fore, ask the aid and countenance, or at all  
events the forbearance of their fellow citi-  
zens whilst they are carrying them out.

JOHN E. MILLS,

Mayor.

Chairman, Immigrant Commissioners.  
Montreal, July 12, 1847.

*Further Reply handed to the Committee dur-  
ing the Public Meeting of the 13th instant,  
and by them laid before the said Meeting:*

TO THE HON. JAMES FERRIER,  
&c. &c.

GENTLEMEN,—The Joint Emigrant Com-  
missioners deem it advisable, in order to al-  
laway public excitement, to state briefly, in  
writing, some of the most prominent rea-  
sons, more fully expressed to you at our  
interview yesterday, which have induced  
them to adopt the measures now in pro-  
gress for the security of the citizens, and  
the amelioration of suffering and disease,  
among the emigrants, notwithstanding the  
expressed opinion of the public meeting,  
held at the Bonsecours Market on Saturday  
last.

1st. They are of opinion that the re-  
moval of the sheds to one of the Bouch-  
erville Islands would not answer the end pro-  
posed, inasmuch as the emigrants would  
then be placed in a similar position to what  
they are in at Grosse Isle, which establish-  
ment though, to a certain extent, it may  
have diminished, yet, in an emergency like  
the present, has signally failed in prevent-  
ing the introduction of disease into the  
Cities of Montreal and Quebec.

2nd. The Commissioners believe that  
persons passed at Boucherville as healthy,

would, in a few days, and, in many cases,  
even in a few hours, after their arrival in  
Montreal, evince symptoms of disease,  
which, at the time they left the Island,  
was latent in their systems, and that the  
same necessity would exist as at present for  
hospitals for their accommodation in the  
neighborhood of the city—with this addi-  
tional risk, that, being considered healthy,  
they would be received into the houses of  
the citizens, and would spread the disease  
even more extensively than under the pres-  
ent regulations.

3rd. The Commissioners believe that it  
is a very serious evil to congregate together  
in large numbers, even for a few days, in-  
dividuals who have been exposed to con-  
tagion, and many of whom may have the  
disease latent in their systems, thus, in their  
opinion, taking a most effectual means of  
communicating the disease to others, who,  
but for such protracted contact, would al-  
together escape.

4th. All the ends contemplated by the  
proposed establishment at Boucherville,  
may be equally well carried out at Grosse  
Isle, without the unnecessary expense of a  
second similar establishment, and the se-  
rious evils, inconveniences and dangers,  
caused to the poor emigrants by such de-  
lay. In order to effect this, the Commis-  
sioners have already requested the Govern-  
ment to issue instructions to the Medical  
Superintendent at Grosse Isle, to attend  
more strictly to the *cleansing and purifica-*  
*tion* of the persons and clothing of the emi-  
grants, to retain all the doubtful, to allow  
only a limited number to embark on board  
of each steamer, to take care that passen-  
gers from healthy vessels are not sent up  
in the same steamer with those from ships  
in which disease existed, and to notify the  
Immigrant Commissioners of the description  
of passengers shipped by each steamer.

5th. The Commissioners feel convinced  
that all the advantages of situation attain-  
able at Boucherville exist, at least in an  
equal degree, at Point St. Charles, where  
spacious sheds are now in progress of erec-  
tion for the accommodation of the sick. It  
possesses high and dry ground, a free cir-  
culation of air, and a strong current of pure  
water, at such a distance from the city as  
to secure a complete isolation of the sick,  
and to prevent the most timid from fearing

that contagion could be conveyed through the atmosphere. It is a well known fact that contagion will not pass many feet through the open air, Fever Hospitals, in many of the large cities of Europe, being frequently situated in their most crowded thoroughfares. The following quotations from Dr. Williams' celebrated work on contagious poisons, places this assertion beyond all doubt:—

"The fever wards of the Chester Infirmary were the first establishment on the principle of fever houses, and are situated within thirteen yards of some other wards of the building, yet during the space of more than twelve years fever was not known to have extended to them. The House of Recovery at Manchester is situated in the most crowded part of that town, yet Dr. Ferrier tells us, that so far from fever spreading in that quarter, it was the first that was cleared of it. The experience also of the London House of Recovery is equally satisfactory. The original establishment was a small private house in Gray's-Inn-Lane, standing in a row, and in contact, with thin and slender built houses on either side; but during fourteen years, although the wards were generally occupied by fever patients, and the windows kept partially open, no fever was known to have been occasioned by its vicinity.

"The space which separates the beds in the London Hospitals is little more than three feet, and except when fever cases have been admitted in too large proportions, the disease has been seldom known to spread from bed to bed. Three feet around the patient's person may therefore be said, under circumstances of ordinary precaution, to secure an exemption from the infection. A nearer approach, or actual contact, it is evident, from the number of nurses attacked, is a much surer means of contamination."

6th.—With respect to poisoning, at so great a distance, such a stream as the St. Lawrence, the Commissioners have only to state, that the people of Montreal quietly drink the filth produced by fifty thousand of its own inhabitants, and they do not conceive that the necessary ablutions of at most a couple of thousand sick emigrants would much increase the evil.

7th.—The advantages of an insular situation may, in a great degree, be secured by a *cordon sanitaire* along the line of the canal, arrangements for which are now in progress, without the very serious disadvantages that would attend the removal of the emigrant establishment to Boucherville Island.

8th.—The Commissioners have reason to believe that the necessary medical attendance, nurses, and other appliances, could not, in the present state of affairs, be procured at any distance from the city, and the valuable services of the Nuns, who have been by far the most efficient nurses, would, by such a removal, be lost to the emigrants. To shut up these unfortunate people on an island, without such attendance, in order to save the city from danger, even were the measure effectual, which it could not now be, owing to the spread of the contagion, would be cruel and selfish in the extreme.

9th.—The selection of the Windmill Point, for the disembarkation and immediate re-embarkation of the emigrants, places them on the side of the city nearest their final destination, the sick can be separated from them, and conveyed to Point St. Charles, more than half a mile higher up, without passing through any portion of the city, and the healthy who are waiting for the recovery of their sick relations can be accommodated in the best ventilated among the present sheds, after thorough cleansing and purification, with a medical officer constantly among them, at once to separate any cases of sickness that may break out.

Finally. In the present emergency time must not be lost, and preparations can be made much more promptly here than on an island, to which the very conveyance of the necessary articles for such an establishment would greatly retard its completion.

I have the honor to be,

Gentlemen,

Your most obdt. servt.,

(Signed) JOHN E. MILLS, Mayor,  
Chairman Emigrant Commission.

Resolutions adopted at the Public Meeting held on Tuesday, the 13th instant, in the Bonsecours Market Hall; His Worship

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*the Mayor in the Chair, John Ostell, Esq., Secretary.*

- 1.—Moved by the Hon. James Ferrier, seconded by John Young, Esq., and carried unanimously :

That in view of the immense increase in the number of Immigrants arriving in this Province, which has been occasioned by the extreme distress prevailing in many parts of the United Kingdom, and by the restrictive measures enforced at the sea-ports of the United States against the landing of such Immigrants, and in view more especially of the shocking state of destitution in which a large proportion of them arrive, the prevalence of infectious disease among them on their passage, the numbers landed sick, the still greater numbers found by experience to fall sick after landing, and finally, of the fact, that, for years to come, many of the causes which have produced these results cannot be expected to cease to operate, this Meeting feels deeply impressed with the extreme importance of the immediate adoption of a thoroughly adequate system of measures, as well for alleviating the sufferings of the Immigrants on their arrival and during their passage to their places of destination, as of protecting the resident population of this Province from the dangers of pestilence.

- 2.—Moved by Pierre Beaubien, Esq. M.D., seconded by J. Boulanget, Esq., and carried unanimously :

That to this end, besides the keeping up of an adequate Quarantine Establishment below Quebec, where the Immigrants, on their arrival, may be landed, the sick separated from the healthy, and treated in Hospitals of proper size and construction, and under medical men of approved capacity, and the healthy detained at a safe distance from the sick, for such time as to admit of the enforcement of all necessary Regulations in regard to cleanliness, and besides the maintenance of the salutary rule lately laid down by Government, for the transport of the healthy from such Quarantine Station directly up the country without detention at Quebec,—this meeting considers that it is further absolutely necessary that permanent Immigrant Stations should be established on a proper footing at other points, where Immigrants fall-

ing sick may again be separated from the healthy, where proper Hospitals may be maintained for their reception and treatment, and where also the healthy may be properly lodged during the delay necessary for their trans-shipment from vessel to vessel, as well as for the enforcement of cleanliness; such Stations, of course, not properly speaking to be regarded as Quarantine Stations, nor their rules made such as to interfere unnecessarily with trade, but all Immigrants conveyed at public cost to be landed at them, and not elsewhere, and to be subjected to their rules, and all passenger vessels having on board other Immigrants sick of infectious disease, to be required to land such sick Immigrants, to be there treated in Hospital.

- 3.—Moved by Benjamin Holmes, Esq., seconded by John Leeming, Esq., and carried unanimously :

That, in the opinion of this meeting, each of such Immigrant Stations should be under the immediate direction and management of a single resident officer, having under him a sufficient staff of assistants, medical and non-medical; that adequate provision should be made at each of them for the proper lodging, support and control of the healthy, as well as for the proper medical treatment of the sick, during their detention there; and that the sites for the same should be so selected as to obviate all detention of the great mass of the Immigrants moving westward, at or close to any city, or in any other locality, either unfavourable to the health of the Immigrants, or where the presence of any large number of Immigrants would be peculiarly hazardous to the resident community.

- 4.—Moved by Lewis T. Drummond, Esq., M. P. P., seconded by Archibald Hall, Esq., M. D., and carried unanimously.

That this meeting must further represent that the establishment of one of such stations is in particular imperatively called for in the neighbourhood of this city; that more than one of the Islands, a few miles below the city, would afford a site in every way unobjectionable, admitting of the landing and reshipment of the Immigrants near the buildings to be erected for their accommodation; affording abundance of room for the separation of the sick from the



healthy; cut off from all communication with the main land, and yet sufficiently accessible for every useful purpose; and that all necessary preparations for the reception of the Immigrants could be there made with at least as much despatch and economy as at any other site.

- 5.—Moved by Christopher Dunkin, Esq., seconded by Charles Wilson, Esq., and carried unanimously:

That the selection of Windmill Point as the site for the reception and stay of the mass of the Immigrants on their way Westward, and of Point St. Charles for the Immigrant Hospital Establishment, is in every way most objectionable; because, from those sites being on the river bank, immediately above the city, the whole of the drainage and sewerage from them must be brought down past the city, and must mingle with the water used for all household purposes by almost the whole of its population; because, from the wind generally blowing down the stream of the river during the summer months, the city must be almost constantly exposed to the exhalations arising from any Immigrant stations there to be maintained; because they are too near the most unhealthy suburb of the city, and the low land traversed by the Lachine Canal, to be as healthy sites as any sites to be chosen for such a purpose ought to be; because their selection will inevitably involve the landing of the Immigrants at or close to wharves occupied for the general purposes of trade, and their re-shipment at the Canal wharves, where, also, the general trade of the city must be in constant progress; because it will be impossible to land the sick, during a great part of the summer, within a distance of about a mile and a half from the site of the proposed Hospital, and it will thus become necessary to carry them in vehicles that distance, all of which must pass the healthy station on the way; and because, from the great amount of business necessarily transacted all through the summer on both sides of the canal, and close to Windmill Point, to say nothing of the steady and rapid extension of the city in that direction, it must be absolutely impossible to maintain any sort of separation between the Stations and the city, or any effective restrictions on the constant passage, back-

wards and forwards, either of the Immigrants or of the inhabitants of the city.

- 6.—Moved by W. Bristow, Esq., seconded by F. Glackmeyer, Esq., and carried unanimously:

That for these reasons this meeting deeply regret the recommendation of these sites, which has been made, in their opinion, most unadvisedly by the Immigrant Commissioners, and most earnestly prays His Excellency the Governor General to reject the same, and to adopt, instead, such Island site as may be found most eligible below the City.

- 7.—Moved by John Fisher, Esq., seconded by Joseph Fraser, Esq., and carried unanimously:

That the prevalence of fever in the City, more particularly where the resident inhabitants have been brought into communication with the Immigrants, the very serious interruption of all travelling through the Province thereby occasioned, and the lasting injury threatened to every branch of commerce, in consequence of the alarm universally prevalent, the dreadful mortality at the present Immigrant Sheds, so near the sites proposed by the Immigrant Commissioners, and the many deaths which have occurred among our best and most valued fellow-citizens, from exposure to contagion, all combine to render it a matter of extreme urgency to the welfare of the Immigrants themselves, of the city and of the Province at large, that instant and proper measures should be taken in this behalf.

- 8.—Moved by John Sinclair, Esq., seconded by A. Laframboise, Esq., and carried unanimously:—

That this meeting feel it necessary, in connection with this subject, to record their most energetic remonstrance against any temporary closing of the Lachine Canal, for repair or enlargement this year, previous to the arrival and departure of all the Immigrants of the season; as such closing of the Canal could not fail to be attended with consequences the most fearfully disastrous; and to pray that His Excellency, the Governor General, will be graciously pleased to direct that such temporary closing of the Canal shall not take place.

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- 9.—Moved by Col. Rugey, seconded by J. L. Beaudry, Esq., and carried unanimously :

That this meeting cannot but further advert to the serious evils resulting, and likely to result, from the practice which has prevailed, of crowding all the passenger steam-vessels, between this city and Quebec, with Immigrant deck passengers, so as not only to leave no steam-vessels for the safe occupation of the travelling community, but also to outrage decency and humanity by the great numbers of Immigrants often put on board of them ; and that they trust that the intervention of the Executive will effectually regulate in future the number of Immigrants to be sent at Government expense in any vessel, and that the steam-boat proprietors will see the expediency of setting apart one vessel daily, for the conveyance of other passengers exclusively.

- 10.—Moved by R. U. Innes, Esq., seconded by H. Mulholland, Esq., and carried unanimously :

That in the judgment of this meeting, the number of cases of fever among the poorer classes of the resident population of the city, imperatively calls for the immediate establishment, at a proper site, of a sufficient Fever Hospital, wholly independent of the hospital for Immigrants ; the site of the present General Hospital being wholly unfit for this purpose, and the gravest objections besides subsisting to the employment of any Hospital to be devoted to the reception of surgical and other cases, for the treatment of cases of infectious fever.

- 11.—Moved by William Workman, Esq., seconded by the Rev. Dr. Bethune, and carried unanimously :

That the great number of nuisances, prejudicial to the public health, still abounding in many parts of the city, and which are so peculiarly dangerous under existing circumstances, call most loudly for the energetic action of the proper authorities, and that this meeting take this occasion to express their earnest hope that no further time will be lost in taking the most decisive steps, at whatever cost, for their removal.

- 12.—Moved by J. Emery Coderre, Esq., M. D., seconded by J. G. Bibaud, Esq., M. D., and carried unanimously :

That a memorial, embodying the tenor of the above resolutions, be signed by His Worship the Mayor in behalf of the citizens of Montreal in this meeting assembled ; that copies of the said resolutions be transmitted to the members of the Legislative Assembly for the City and County of Montreal, to the City Clerk, and to the Honorary Secretary of the Board of Health ; and that the Mayor, the Secretary of this meeting, and the movers and seconders of the several resolutions, be a Committee to present the said Memorial, and otherwise to give effect to this resolution.

*Certificates of Nineteen Physicians, and of the Clergy of all Denominations, in favour of the selection of a site for an Immigrant Station below the City.*

We, the undersigned Physicians, coincide with the inhabitants of this City, in opinion, that a situation below Montreal is not only much preferable to one in the immediate vicinity of the town, but we consider it absolutely necessary, for the preservation of the city, that such a location should be selected.

R. S. MACDONNELL, M. D.  
PIERRE BRAUBIEN, M. D.  
J. BAUBER, M. R. C. S. L.  
HENRY HOWARD, M. D.  
A. H. DAVID, M. D.  
A. HALL, M. D.  
HY. MOUNT, M. D.  
J. EMERY CODERRE, M. D.  
J. G. BIBAUD, M. D.  
HECTOR PELTIER, M. D.  
D. LEPROHON, M. D.  
Dr. P. BROUSSEAU.  
D. L. F. TAVERNIER.  
J. B. LEBOURDAIS.  
B. M. CHARLEBOIS, M. D.  
W. E. SCOTT, M. D.  
O. T. BRUNEAU, M. D.  
F. A. CADWELL, M. D.

I, the undersigned Physician, coincide with the inhabitants of the City, in opinion that a situation below Montreal is very much preferable to one in its immediate vicinity ; and that as it would be nearly impossible to prevent communication between the Sheds and the City, there would

be danger of disease from the former source affecting the community.

(Signed) A. F. HOLMES, M. D.

MONTREAL, 16th July, 1847.

The undersigned have no hesitation in stating, that they would prefer visiting the sick Emigrants at any island below the city, not more than fifteen miles distant, to doing so in the present or the contemplated locality of the Hospital Sheds in Griffintown, provided the means of conveyance backwards and forwards be supplied.

JOHN BETHUNE, Rector of Christ's Church.

W. T. LEACH, of St. George's Chapel.

D. FALLOON, Minister of St. Ann's Chapel.

JOHN FLETCHER, Assistant Minister, Christ's Church.

CHARLES BANCROFT, Minister of St. Thomas's Church.

ROBERT M'GILL, Minister of St. Paul's Church.

HENRY WILKES, Minister of Zion Church.

W. TAYLOR, Minister of the United Presbyterian Church.

WILLIAM SQUIRE, Wesleyan Church.

W. AGAR ADAMSON, Assistant Minister Christ's Church.

J. M. CRAMP, Baptist Church.

J. GIRDWOOD, do. do.

[TRANSLATION.]

We, the undersigned, Bishop of Montreal, declare, by these presents, that it is our intention, as it is our duty, to carry, and to have carried, by the Priests under our authority, the religious succours which belong to our Ministry, to all sick Immigrants, whether it be on the Island of Boucherville or at any other place below the city, which may please the Government, for the purpose of affording them medical treatment, as becomes the Father of the People.

We, at the same time, declare that the Religious communities will always be ready to give their charitable assistance to these poor sick, in every locality, so long as Divine Providence affords them strength and health, to aid suffering humanity, so long as the calamity continues, with which we are now afflicted.

In evidence of which, we have signed these presents.

Given at Montreal, in our Episcopal Palace, this 16th July, 1847.

† JG. EVE. DE MONTREAL.

[TRANSLATION.]

MONTREAL, 16th July, 1847.

GENTLEMEN,—In answer to the enquiry you have done us the honor of addressing to us, to ascertain if we will be disposed to afford that spiritual relief to the Irish Immigrants on the Island of Boucherville, which we have hitherto done at the Sheds at Montreal, the Seminary has the honor of informing you, that having already exhausted their means for the benefit of these unfortunates, it will be difficult for them hereafter to do more for them; but that which they can do they are perfectly disposed to do to the end, whether on the Island of Boucherville or at the Montreal Sheds.

I am, with profound respect,  
Gentlemen,

Your very humble and

Very obedient servant,

P. BILLAUDELE,  
*Sup. de Séminaire.*

To John Fisher, Esq. and the other  
Gentlemen of the Committee.

*Letter from the Provincial Secretary to the  
Committee, of the 16th instant.*

SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

Montreal, July 16, 1847.

SIR,—I am instructed by the Governor-General to acquaint the gentlemen composing the Deputation from the Citizens of Montreal, that the Memorial placed by them in the hands of His Excellency, is now under his consideration in Council; and that the result of their deliberations on the several very important matters therein contained, will be communicated to you at the earliest possible moment.

I am further instructed to inform you, that a Member of the Government is now at Grosse Isle, with a view to the adoption of measures, to prevent, as far as possible, the continuance of the present system of forwarding Immigrants, while in a doubtful state of health; and to extend the Quarantine Establishment at that Station; and,



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further, to insure the detention of all Im- From the extraordinary number of the migrants arriving there in vessels in which Immigrants who have arrived this year in any sickness may have shown itself, until the St. Lawrence, and the very distressed the Medical authorities there shall have and sickly condition in which most of them thoroughly satisfied themselves that they have arrived and are daily arriving, their may be forwarded without endangering the detention, unavoidable under the present health of the Inhabitants of the Cities and system, close to the populous suburb of this localities through which they may have city which adjoins the mouth of the La- to pass. By these precautions, it is chine Canal, has been productive of the confidently anticipated that the present most fatal consequences, and threatens re- unhealthy tide of Immigration past the sults even more appalling for the future. Quarantine Station will be arrested, and It has been found impossible to maintain a that for the future the introduction of Im- rigid enforcement of the Quarantine Laws rigid enforcement of the Quarantine Laws below Quebec, because of the multitude of migrants will be deprived of the melan- those whom it would have detained at choly concomitants which have hitherto Grosse Isle, and their wretchedly destitute accompanied it. condition. Arrangements have been made, and as this Grand Jury fully admit, in ac-

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
Your most obedient servant,  
D. DALY,  
Secretary.

To His Worship  
The Mayor of Montreal.

*Presentment of the Grand Jury of the Court  
of Quarter Sessions.*

*To His Honor the Chairman and Justices  
sitting in the Court of General Quarter  
Sessions of the Peace:*

The Grand Jury have visited the several public institutions which it is their duty to visit, and have found them in such a state, as evidences the faithfulness and efficiency of those in charge of them. The lament- able insufficiency of the public buildings used for a Gaol and Court-House respec- tively, is so notorious, and has so often been represented by former Grand Juries, as to make it idle for them to say more on the subject, than that the long continued neglect with which the urgent representations, so often made of this crying evil, have been treated, is, in their opinion, most disgraceful to the authorities, whose duty it is to provide in these respects for the wants of the com- munity. In spite of this discouraging neglect, with which so many previous Presentments of Grand Juries have been treated, they can- not refrain, in the proper discharge of their duty to the public, from adverting to some considerations of great and absorbing in- terest, and praying for the urgent recommen- dation of your Honors to the proper author- ities, in support of the representation which they feel called upon thus to make.

The site of the Sheds, heretofore and still in use, is almost the worst that could have been chosen, whether for the health of the Immigrants or of the City. All that can be said for it is, that the spot understood to have been lately selected by the Immigrant Commissioners, at Wind- mill Point, for the detention of the more healthy class of Immigrants, is even worse; because, being about equally unhealthy, it is still more in the way of the business necessarily conducted at the mouth of the Lachine Canal. Nor will the case be mended by the proposed plan of removing the Sheds for the sick to Point St. Charles, because, not to dwell on other considera- tions, the sick will still require to be landed with the healthy at the mouth of the Canal: great numbers will still always be detained there, their removal will be difficult and prejudicial to them; the whole body of the sick Immigrants will be kept near the city, and to windward of it; and neither the Hospital Sheds at Point St. Charles, nor the other Sheds at Windmill Point, can ever be at all cut off from communication

with the city. The Grand Jury earnestly distance from the city, of an adequate and call for an entire abandonment of all these properly managed Fever Hospital, for the sites, and the selection of one or more treatment of cases of fever arising among Islands below Montreal, there being, in the resident population; the removal of the fact, more than one suitable in every resort, nuisances abounding even yet, to the respect for the purpose, as the future place of grace of the authorities, in the streets; trans-shipment for the Immigrants on their the setting apart of a class of steam vessels, between this city and Quebec, for the way westward. On such Island or Islands, the exclusive conveyance of passengers other the sick should be separated from the healthy, and detained in proper Hospitals; than newly arrived Immigrants; and the and the healthy should be properly lodged, abandonment of the two prevalent practice and cleanliness enforced among them, of conveying the sick and the dead in the ring such detention as may be found uncabs and calèches in common use; are all avoidable. The barges should be taken matters which also require notice at the down from the city for them, and should hands of the Grand Jury; and they trust pass directly through the canal, without that the proper authorities will lose no stopping. more time before making energetic and effectual efforts to meet the existing emergency in these respects.

The present alarming state of things admits, in the opinion of the Grand Jury, and in that of their fellow citizens universally, of no other remedy. Whatever effort may be made to increase the efficiency of the Quarantine below Quebec, the necessity for this still further change must still subsist, because no such effort can affect the number of the Immigrants arriving on our shores, or relieve their destitution, or materially lessen their liability to fall sick on their route.

At present the Grand Jury must, on their oaths, present to your Honors the fact, that the greatest and most reasonable alarm prevades the public mind; that cases of infectious fever are fearfully numerous in all parts of the city; that the mortality consequent on the prevailing fever is great, and among the unfortunate Immigrants fearful in the last degree; that many of our best and most valued citizens have fallen and are daily falling victims to their benevolent efforts to discharge the duties which humanity and religion call on them to perform in the behalf of these sufferers; and that the commerce of the city is seriously injured in a variety of ways, from the interruptions to all business near the canal, the greatly lessened number of purchasers of goods coming in from the country, the failure of the markets, caused by the alarm of the country people, the almost entire stoppage of all pleasure travelling, and the constant departure from the city of such families as are not under any necessity of remaining here.

The immediate establishment, at a safe

The Grand Jury have had under their consideration two important cases during the present Session, against one James Crow and Thomas Nowlan, for highway robbery and shooting at the person of Mr. Sheriff Coffin, with intent to commit felony. These cases have been tried, and they are happy to find that the parties implicated have been convicted and sentenced to be imprisoned in the Provincial Penitentiary during the term of their natural life.

The Grand Jury, in alluding to these cases, have been induced to do so to bear their testimony to the energetic and praiseworthy conduct of His Honor Mr. Justice Day and Mr. Sheriff Coffin, on the occasion of the commission of the offences in question, and especially to the latter gentleman, who, at the most imminent risk of his life, secured the culprits, and thus they have reason to believe that an organized band of robbers was broken up; for previous to their apprehension, offences of a similar character were of frequent occurrence, whilst none have since taken place; and the Grand Jury beg leave, in the name of the District, to tender their acknowledgments to these two gentlemen for their laudable behaviour on the occasion referred to.

The whole is respectfully submitted.

HY. STARNES, Foreman.  
(For all the Grand Jury.)

Grand Jury-Room, }  
Montreal, July 17, 1847. }

*Petition of the Common Council of the City of Montreal, to the Three Branches of the Legislature, adopted on the 19th of July, Alderman Tully and Councillor Lynch alone dissentient.*

The Petition of the Mayor, Aldermen and Citizens of the City of Montreal,

Most respectfully represents,—

That the insufficiency of all the existing arrangements for the reception and classification of Immigrants is manifest; that the requisite care has not been taken of the sick; that no effectual distinction has been made between them and the healthy; that airy, salubrious sites for the temporary abode of either class have not been selected; that both classes have been, hitherto, huddled together in undue and even dangerous numbers on board of steamers and barges; that no efficient means of preventing them from mixing with the rural or urban population have been adopted; that the sheds within the boundaries of this City, in which thousands in every stage of disease and destitution have for some time been, and continue to be, crowded without due sanitary regulations, and even without ablutionary appliances, are causes not only of alarm, but of danger.

That your Petitioners, moved not only by a desire to protect their fellow-citizens, but by motives of humanity towards their suffering fellow-subjects, pray that Your [Excellency] Honorable House will be pleased to make Legislative provision for the evils of such magnitude. Your Petitioners more especially pray that Your [Excellency] Honorable House will establish some insular station opposite or below this City, as the point of landing or transshipment; that the same may be provided with sufficient tenements for the healthy, with hospitals for the sick, with fresh food, with cooking apparatus, and with a large medical staff, and amply supplied with nurses and attendants, as well as with the means for insuring ablution and cleanliness; That adequate means may be adopted to exclude

every diseased person from contact with the healthy, and effectually to prevent all Immigrants from passing the limits without previous examination and permission. Lastly, your Petitioners pray, that the direction and management of the Station so formed be entrusted to a single resident officer, clothed with power to enforce order, and responsible for his conduct to Colonial authority.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

*Address of the Legislative Assembly to His Excellency the Governor General, for the Removal of the Immigrant Station, as prayed for by the Citizens.*

{ Legislative Assembly,  
Monday 19th July.

Resolved,—That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, representing to His Excellency the alarming extent to which contagious fever unhappily prevails at the Emigrant Sheds, erected at the mouth of the Lachine Canal, and among the Emigrants arriving from below and congregating there,—that the situation chosen for the said Sheds, and more especially Windmill Point, is, in the opinion of this House, unsuitable and inconvenient for the reception and proper treatment of the Emigrants, while the existence of contagious disease in the immediate vicinity of the principal business thoroughfare of the City, the daily and unavoidable resort of a large portion of the Inhabitants thereof, is attended with imminent danger to the Citizens at large, and is exciting great uneasiness and apprehension in the Community,—and praying that His Excellency will be pleased to cause measures to be promptly taken in order to provide a Station at some place below the City, more easy of access, and in other respects better suited than the locality in question, for the purposes of a Dépôt for Emigrants, and thereby allay the existing fear of contagion.

y submitted.

ARNES, Foreman.  
and Jury.)